

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.173, please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A pond cover comprising:
  - a plurality of panel units linked together;
  - means for insulating said pond cover, said insulating means comprising a generally rectangular layer of insulation wherein each of said panel units is filled internally with said layer of insulation and is sealed at either end and along either side by welding; and
  - means for linking said panel units together and securing said pond cover in position on a pond, said linking means comprising grommets disposed along said sealed end of each of said panel units, and each of said panel units is linked in vertical spaced relationship to an adjacent panel unit by at least one cable disposed through said vertical spaced grommets and formed into a loop projecting above said panel units, and said securing means including a second cable which is disposed through [the] an entire row of said loops and is anchored at either of its end to an anchoring means.
2. (Amended) The pond cover of claim 1, where the loops disposed through the grommets project both above and below the panel units.
3. (Amended) The pond cover of claim 1, where the loops disposed about the second cable are disposed through the grommets.

4. (Amended) A pond cover comprising:  
a plurality of panel units linked together;  
means for insulating the pond cover, the insulating means comprising a generally  
rectangular layer of insulation where each of the panel units is filled  
internally with the layer of insulation and is sealed at either end and along  
either side by welding; and  
means for linking the panel units together and securing the pond cover in position  
on a pond, the linking means comprising grommets disposed along the  
sealed end of each of the panel units, and each of the panel units is linked  
in vertical spaced relationship to an adjacent panel unit by at least one  
cable disposed through the vertical spaced grommets and formed into a  
loop projecting above the panel units, and the securing means including a  
second cable which is disposed through a row of the loops and is anchored  
at either of its end to an anchoring means.
5. (Six times amended) A cover and wastewater combination comprising:  
wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste;  
at least two panels positioned over the wastewater, each panel having a side characterized  
by an edge and a plurality of openings spaced apart from the edge, the panels  
being removably linked together in overlapping relationship such that gas from  
the wastewater can flow from underneath portions of the panels, through gaps  
between adjacent panels, to a location above the panels; and

the openings in one of the panels being positioned above the openings in the other panel,  
and a fastener being disposed through at least two adjacent openings.

6. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 5, where the panels are rectangular.

7. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 5, where the panels comprise a geomembrane.

8. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 5, where the panels are approximately seven and one-half feet wide and approximately forty feet long.

9. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 5, where each panel includes insulation material sealed inside, but not completely filling, a void in the panel.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 9, where the insulation material is sealed inside each panel by a weld.

12. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 9, where the insulation material is rectangular.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 5, where the panels further comprises a grommet circumscribing each opening.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 5, further comprising:  
means for anchoring the cover in a desired position.

20. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 19, where the means for anchoring comprises:

at least one tie-down cable; and

means for anchoring the tie-down cable.

21. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 19, where the anchoring means comprises an anchoring trench.

22. (Amended) The cover and wastewater combination of claim 20, where the tie-down cable passes through the fastener.

23-27. (Canceled)

28. (Five Times Amended) A method of manipulating a cover comprising:  
linking at least two panels such that the panels are adjacent to each other;  
disposing the panels over wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial  
waste;  
de-linking the panels; and  
re-linking the panels.
29. (Amended) The method of claim 28, where the panels are rectangular.
30. (Amended) The method of claim 29, where the rectangular panels are approximately seven and one-half feet wide and approximately forty feet long.
31. (Amended) The method of claim 28, where each panel comprises geomembrane.
32. (Amended) The method of claim 28, where each panel contains, but is not completely filled with, insulating material.
33. (Canceled)
34. (Amended) The method of claim 32, where the insulating material is sealed inside a geomembrane through welding.
35. (Amended) The method of claim 32, where the insulating material is rectangular.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 28, where each panel comprises openings, and the linking includes placing a fastener through at least one pair of adjacent openings.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 36, where each opening of each panel is circumscribed with a grommet.

38. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 36, where the openings in each panel are adjacent to at least one edge of one side of the panel.

39. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 36, where the linking comprises orienting the panels in an overlapping relationship.

40. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising:  
anchoring the linked panels over the wastewater.

41-42. (Canceled)

43. (Amended) The method of claim 40, where the anchoring comprises anchoring the linked panels over the wastewater with an anchoring trench.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 43, where the anchoring comprises using at least one tie-down cable.

45. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 43, where the tie-down cable passes through at least one fastener.

46-49. (Canceled)

50. A cover and wastewater combination comprising:  
wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste; and  
at least two panels removably linked to each other, the panels being positioned over and  
in direct contact with the wastewater;  
where each panel contains, but is not completely filled with, an insulation material.

51. The cover and wastewater combination of claim 50, where each panel comprises a geomembrane.

52. The cover and wastewater combination of claim 50, where the insulation material is sealed inside each panel by a weld.

53. The cover and wastewater combination of claim 50, where each panel includes multiple openings, the panels overlap, and the panels are removably linked to each other with fasteners.

54. The cover and wastewater combination of claim 53, further comprising:  
means for anchoring the cover in a desired position.

55. A cover and wastewater combination comprising:  
wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste;  
at least two panels removably linked together in overlapping relationship over the  
wastewater; and  
means for removably linking the panels in overlapping relationship, the means  
comprising fasteners and openings defined in each of the panels;  
where the openings in one of the panels are positioned above the openings in another of  
the panels to form pairs of openings of different panels, and one of the fasteners is  
disposed through each pair of overlapping openings so as to removably link the  
overlapping panels.
56. A cover and wastewater combination comprising:  
wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste; and  
a plurality of panels positioned over the wastewater, the panels being removably linked  
together to form a non gas-tight cover system.
57. The cover and wastewater combination of claim 56, where each panel comprises a  
geomembrane.
58. The cover and wastewater combination of claim 57, further comprising insulation  
material sealed inside each panel by a weld.

59. The cover and wastewater combination of claim 58, where each panel includes multiple openings, the panels overlap, and the panels are removably linked together with fasteners.

60. A cover comprising:

a plurality of panels configured for use over wastewater, the panels being removably linked together such when the cover is positioned over wastewater, gas from the wastewater can travel from below the cover to above the cover through gaps in the removably linked panels;  
each panel comprising a material that contains, but is not filled completely with, insulation.

61. The cover of claim 60, where the material is geomembrane.

62. The cover of claim 61, where each panel includes multiple openings, the panels overlap, and the panels are removably linked together with fasteners.

63. A method of manipulating a cover comprising:

linking at least two panels such that (a) the panels are adjacent to each other and (b) gas can migrate through gaps between the panels, each panel comprising material that contains, but is not completely filled with, insulation; and disposing the panels over wastewater that includes sewage and/or industrial waste.

64. The method of claim 63, where the material is geomembrane.
65. The method of claim 64, where, for each panel, the insulating material is sealed inside the geomembrane through welding.
66. The method of claim 63, where the insulating material is rectangular.
67. The method of claim 63, where each panel comprises openings, and the linking includes placing a fastener through at least one pair of adjacent openings.
68. The method of claim 67, where the openings in each panel are adjacent to at least one edge of one side of the panel.
69. The method of claim 67, where the linking includes orienting the panels in an overlapping relationship.
70. The method of claim 69, further comprising:  
anchoring the linked panels over the wastewater.